



**Some  
recommendations  
for learning  
to send and  
receive code**



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## Introduction

This folder is intended only to offer you some tips on studying radio/telegraph code communications. It does not pretend to be a manual for learning—in fact, we heartily recommend your consideration of many courses of instruction that are now available in most communities, or by mail from excellent sources.

William M. Nye

## The key to learning

Just as you learned to speak your native language—by imitating sounds—long before you learned to read, so, you should learn this new language. The code system is a language of sounds, essentially, and you will confuse and slow your learning process if you start out by memorizing the visual picture of an alphabet of dots and dashes.

This means, of course, that you will need an instructor—a most vital part of your equipment. Whether your instructor is a “live” person or one of the many tape or disc teaching systems available, it is essential that you follow directions closely. In the absence of these, find an experienced operator/friend who will help you with the basics, then the essential rhythmic pattern of sounds that is the mark of good code transmission—whether by radio or by land-line telegraph.

Throughout the learning process—and even after you reach the proficiency of an expert—*practice* is an essential ingredient. Practice regularly and consistently. Set a specific goal for each practice session.

Once having learned the alphabet and numerals, you will start to increase your speed. Let us forewarn you now—as all students of code have experienced—you will reach an apparent “plateau” or apparent maximum speed. Again, as in the first learning process, *practice and concentration* will be the only answer!

## Codes and equipment

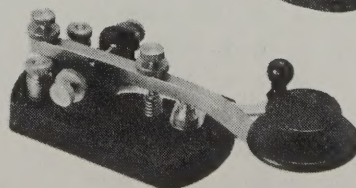
There are some very basic differences between radio-transmitted, and telegraph-transmitted code communications, although the general principles of both are essentially the same. In both cases the “language” consists of dots and dashes and the transmitting key serves as an electrical switch in each case. But, there the similarity ends and differences begin.

(a) The INTERNATIONAL CODE is employed in RADIO communicating, and the MORSE CODE in TELEGRAPHY. Approximately 50% of the alphabet, and all of the numbers differ between the two codes. (Obviously, then, it would be most confusing and frustrating to attempt learning both!)

(b) The RADIO key, which activates the transmitter sends out long and short bursts of radio frequency (RF) energy which are translated into “*Buzzing*” sounds by the receiver. In TELEGRAPHY, the key activates a *sounder* which transmits its signals with metallic *clicking* sounds over the land-line to the receiving end.

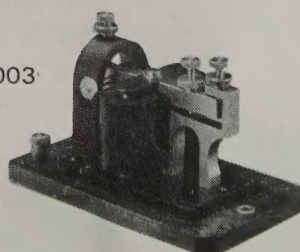
Practice equipment for *radio* consists of a key, a tone generator, earphones and/or a small speaker plus a suitable power source. For telegraph practice, the set consists of a sounder and a key such as pictured below.

Nye Viking  
Standard Key  
Cat. No. 114-310-003



Nye Viking  
Heavy Duty Key  
Cat. No. 114-322-003

Nye Viking  
Telegraph Sounder  
Cat. No. 114-112



## A quick look back... and ahead

Some 130 years ago Samuel F.B. Morse really started something when he sent the first message, “What hath God Wrought”, over the first telegraph line, from Baltimore, Md., to Washington D.C. Morse not only invented the technology of electric-magnetic communications, but created a new language...one that has since come to be world wide in its acceptance. From the days when wires (sometimes even barbed wire fences!) and cables were needed between sender and receiver, almost unbelievable technical progress has been achieved. Not only the dots and dashes of Morse’s code language, but the human voice, drawings and photographs, even motion pictures in black-and-white or color, can be sent and received across oceans and continents...to and from outer space!

But, in spite of all that scientific and technical advance in electrical communications, the Morse Code system and its “language”, thanks to its great dependability, is still widely used in military, commercial, and yes, *social* communications. As you learn, and start to use the language of Morse, you may soon find yourself carrying on “dots and dashes” conversations with fellow CW operators around the world and aboard ships on every sea lane.














































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## The International Code—for radio communication

Ä • ■ • ■  
 Á • ■ ■ • ■  
 CH ■ ■ ■ ■  
 É • • ■ • •  
 Ñ ■ ■ • ■ ■  
 Ö ■ ■ ■ •  
 Ü • • ■ ■

PERIOD	●  ●  ● 
SEMICOLON	 ●  ●  ●
COLON	   ●   ●   ●
COMMA	  ●   ●  
QUOTES	●  ●   ●  ●
QUESTION MARK	●   ●   ●   ●
APOSTROPHE	●     ●
HYPHEN	 ●   ●   ●   ● 
FRACTION BAR	 ●   ●  ●
PARENTHESIS	 ●   ● 
UNDERSCORE	●   ●   ● 
BREAK	 ●   ●   ● 
PERCENT	●   ●  ●  ●
SEPARATION	●  ●   ● 
ATTENTION	 ●  ● 

## The Morse Code—for telegraph only

A ● ■■■■  
B ■■■■ ● ● ●  
C ● ● ●  
D ■■■■ ● ●  
E ●  
F ● ■■■■ ●  
G ■■■■ ■■■■ ●  
H ● ● ● ●  
I ● ●  
J ■■■■ ● ■■■■ ●  
K ■■■■ ● ■■■■  
L ■■■■  
M ■■■■ ■■■■  
N ■■■■ ●

O ● ● ●  
P ● ● ● ●  
Q ● ● ■ ●  
R ● ● ●  
S ● ● ●  
T ■ ■  
U ● ● ■ ■  
V ● ● ● ■ ■  
W ● ■ ■ ■ ■  
X ● ■ ■ ● ●  
Y ● ● ● ●  
Z ● ● ● ●

1 ● ■ ■ ●  
2 ● ■ ● ●  
3 ● ● ■ ●  
4 ● ● ● ● ■  
5 ■ ■ ■  
6 ● ● ■ ● ● ●  
7 ■ ■ ● ●  
8 ■ ● ● ●  
9 ■ ● ● ■  
0 ■ ■ ■

PERIOD     ●   ●   ■   ■   ●   ●  
COMMA     ●   ■   ●   ■  
QUESTION   ■   ●   ●   ■   ●